

**David Fisher**  
**Grade 8**  
**St. Margaret Mary School**  
**First Place**

**Spread Equality Today**

Over the last two centuries, many people have strived to gain equal rights for all races and nationalities of people. Many people have given their lives to this cause, and while it is noble, more often than not, these people go almost unheard. Very few people who pursue the equal rights goal are even noticed, even those who give their lives to the cause often have no effect. Some people, however, do stand out, and they make a difference. One of the most famous of those people who did make a difference is Martin Luther King. Because of the years of dedication and sacrifice that were suffered by that one man, many people today can enjoy a more fair and just world.

Martin Luther King Jr. gave many anti racism speeches and rallies, and is best known for his “I had a Dream” speech. He and his family suffered greatly, because of the still strong feelings of hatred and the close mindedness of people. Martin Luther King persisted, and because of his dedication to his cause, he was eventually shot and killed; he died defending equal rights, and so became a martyr for that cause.

Because of his sacrifice, many African American voiced unfair treatment because of race, and so, many African Americans today live more equal and fair lives. But despite the sacrifices and teaching of Martin Luther King, there is still a great deal of racism in our world today. Because of this, we must learn to accept each other for who we are, not what color we are. If we cannot learn to do this, there is little chance that we will ever treat each other with equality and kindness. If you are reading this and thinking “What can I do, what can one person do?” consider this; what if every person around the

world thought that, what if Martin Luther King Jr. had thought that? What would our world be like today? This should make every person want to consider what he or she can do to end racism. It should make each person consider what his or her personal role is in the fight against racism, because it is up to every person on earth to protect the rights of our neighbors

Some things that I can do to promote awareness of equal rights, and to eliminate all unfair racism are as follows. I can be careful of words, even if used jokingly, that could be harmful, or offending to people of other ethnic groups. Also, I could discourage friends and others from using such language. It is so important today to treat and speak to others in a respectful way if we can ever hope to be treated equally. Finally, the most important thing I can do to promote equality is to stick up for others who are victims of racial or religious profiling. This does not mean we should go around looking for people to fight in the defense of others, it simply means we should speak out for people when they are afraid to speak out for themselves. If you help one person speak up, you may be surprised by the number of people who follow your example.

The most important thing to remember is that if you truly believe all people are equal, you will not be afraid to voice that belief to others. Stand up for what you believe in is a lesson that Martin Luther King taught, maybe without knowing it, when he spoke up for equal human rights. Today we still honor him by standing up for human rights, and by remembering that while our own contributions against racism may not make much difference alone, when many people contribute, no matter how small a way, it will make a difference.